FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 MAY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi IV Army Corps commander claimed that Iraq "occupied" 252 square km of Iranian territory during a 30 April offensive against Iranian positions in the Faqqeh area in the south central sector, Voice of the Masses radio reported. A communique carried by the radio said the Iraqis "penetrated" 12 km "deep into their targets," taking "extremely important" territory and killing and capturing "large numbers" of Iranians. Although not acknowledging an Iraqi offensive in that area, communiques cited by IRNA divulged that the Iranian Air Force carried out two bombing raids on Iraqi positions there 1 May, asserting that the Iraqis sustained heavy personnel and materiel losses.

In continuing reportage on fighting in the Al-Faw area, a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed that Iran liberated more territory during an "intense" clash the night of 29-30 April, "crushing" several Iraqi battalions and bringing the number of Iraqi casualties to over 5,100.

Iranian military reports also announced that over 300 Iraqis were killed in the southern Majnun Islands in an unsuccessful Iraqi counterattack late 29 April, according to Tehran radio.

In further air action, a communique cited by IRNA asserted that Iranian anti-aircraft fire downed an Iraqi plane in the northern Persian Gulf, while an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio reported that the Iraqi Air Force bombed the Iranian oil fields of Ahvaz, Marun, Bibi Hakimeh, and Agha Jari. The Iraqi communique also mentioned that Iraqi planes attacked "one large and another very large" maritime target off the Iranian coast, scoring "direct" hits.

Qatar-Bahrain Territorial Dispute

An official Qatari statement carried by WAKH asserted that Qatar "deeply regrets" its disagreement with Bahrain over maritime borders, adding that Qatar had attempted to resolve the dispute through "all fraternal and amicable means" which proved fruitless because of Bahrain's "insistence" on continuing to "violate" Qatar's maritime sovereignty. Bahrain's attempt to transform Fasht al-Dibal into an "industrial island" violated a Saudi-brokered agreement in which each side pledged not to carry out any action to strengthen its legal position concerning disputed territory, the statement added. Qatar was accordingly "compelled to stop" Bahrain's land filling and construction activity in Fasht al-Dibal in order to restore the status quo ante. The statement went on to express Qatar's gratitude and appreciation for Saudi Arabia's mediation efforts and for the GCC leaders' concern to resolve the issue.

Diplomatic sources cited by Tehran radio's Arabic service stated that Qatar has begun withdrawing troops from Fasht al-Dibal and that 29 construction workers seized by Qatari troops will shortly be permitted to return to Bahrain.

Libya

AFP reported Libya's decision to expell 19 Britons and at least 36 Spaniards, while ANSA noted that the authorities have asked over 60 Italians to leave.

In the UAE, *AL-ITTIHAD* published an interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi 1 May, KUNA reported, noting the Libyan leader told the paper that President Reagan is pushing Libya "to become another Cuba and to declare its alignment with the Warsaw Pact." Al-Qadhdhafi also said he is expecting a "greater role" from the Soviet Union, which has "already started" to move toward this role.

As for the forthcoming Arab emergency summit, JANA announced 1 May that the leaders of Syria, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE have agreed to hold the conference in the "Great" Jamahiriyah.

Arab Foreign Ministers' Conference

Arab foreign ministers held a closed meeting in Fes after hearing speeches from Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi and Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali in a public opening session, Rabat radio reported. During the closed session the ministers exchanged views about the agenda and some delegations expressed their wish to carry out more contacts with their governments on the matter, Filali revealed afterward in remarks cited by the radio.

Syria

During his visit to Belgrade, President Hafiz al-Asad received FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher at the latter's request, Damascus radio disclosed in a brief report that did not mention the content of their talks. Genscher, however, divulged details about the meeting in remarks to journalists reported by DPA, saying he told Al-Asad that "small terrorist groups" must "not destroy the good relationship between Arabs and Europeans" and that the FRG will not allow terrorist actions on its soil. Al-Asad stated that Syria wants to cooperate with the FRG in combatting terrorism, Genscher disclosed. As for Al-Asad's talks with the SFRY President, Belgrade radio said the two sides took a "serious and responsible" position on the problem of terrorism and stressed the need for joint action to combat it.

Egypt

Police arrested a number of demonstrators in Aswan during a 29 April clash with members of an "extremist Muslim faction" who were attempting to hold a demonstration and to "storm" a mosque in the town, an Interior Ministry official announced in a statement reported by Cairo radio.

Southern Lebanon

Two "terrorists" were killed and three IDF soldiers were wounded in a 29 April clash in the eastern sector of Israel's security strip, Jerusalem radio reported. Beirut radio said the Israelis moved some 50 tanks into the security strip 29-30 April.

Maghreb Affairs

Party Meeting — Following a 27-28 April conference in Algiers, four Arab Maghreb political parties issued a joint communique that called for Maghreb unity and urged a "speedy solution" to the Western Sahara problem. The communique, which was broadcast by Algiers radio, noted that the conference was attended by Algeria's FLN, Tunisia's Destourian Socialist Party, and two Moroccan parties — the Istiqlal and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces. The communique added that the parties have agreed to ask the leaders of the three countries to swiftly convene a meeting of a Maghreb "advisory council," whose establishment was urged at the parties' 1984 conference in Tunis.

Tunisia — Opposition leader Ahmed Mestiri has been temporarily discharged from jail on health grounds, Paris radio reported, adding that the decision was made pending a 14 May court ruling on Mestiri's appeal.

DRA

The DRA lodged a protest with Iran over a 21 April Iranian television interview with Afghan "counterrevolutionaries," and warned that such "propaganda" and "hostile" action by Iran against the DRA will have "grave consequences" for bilateral relations, Kabul radio reported.

On the internal situation, BAKHTAR reported that 200 members and the "ringleaders" of the "Jamiyat band" surrendered to the authorities in Faryab Province, in addition to 14 others of various rebel bands. Kabul radio admitted that 3 persons were killed and 17 others were wounded in a rebel mortar and missile attack on Aybak city, Samangan Province, according to a Sarandoy spokesman.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Iranian Actions Carry 'Grave Consequences'

LD301851 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires ad interim of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul was summoned to the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon, where the director of the Second Political Section gave him a note the text of which reads as follows:

On 21 April 1986, corresponding to 1 Sowr 1365, an Iranian television [as heard] program allotted time for an exclusive interview with individuals named Sheykh Hoseyni and Nasrollah Mansur who belong to the Nasr [victory] and Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslam-e Afghanistan [Afghan Islamic Revolution Movement] counterrevolutionary organizations. The authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] gave the Afghan rebel bands the opportunity to attack the Afghan-Pakistan talks in Geneva, distort the facts about traditional Afghan-Soviet relations, and dispute the sovereign jurisdiction of the legal government of the DRA over Afghanistan. In the interview, approval was expressed for the continued murdering of innocent people and the expanded level of destruction until a so-called victory is achieved and an Islamic government is set up in Afghanistan.

[Passage indistinct] For the activities of these bands and assisting them in propagandistic and aggressive actions against the DRA, is a war which is contrary to the desires, aspirations, and efforts of the DRA to observe the principles of peaceful coexistence and good neighborliness and to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of others.

The DRA strongly condemns these provocative actions committed in negligence of international laws and norms in neighborly relations by the IRI authorities, which demonstrate an unfriendly and futile stance that could lead to the further deterioration of our interstate relations. The DRA expresses its desire for the normalization of relations between itself and Iran in accordance with the interests of the peoples of our two fraternal countries. The DRA demands that this propaganda and every type of hostile (?act) by the IRI in collusion with the Afghan counterrevolutionaries be halted once and for all. The DRA states that every type of subversive and propaganda activity will have grave consequences for the relations between the DRA and Iranian governments and that the responsibility for such acts rests with the IRI authorities.

Counterrevolutionaries Attack Aybak in Samangan

LD301704 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Savage counterrevolutionary elements have launched mortars and missiles manufactured in the United States and China, martyring three of our innocent people and wounding a number in Aybak city, Samangan Province. They once again exposed their filthy faces to our toiling people.

Quoting a Sarandoy command spokesman in Samangan Province, a BAKHTAR correspondent reported that as a result of the mortar and missile attack, in addition to damages inflicted on the homes of the citizens of Aybak city and material losses, three of our innocent compatriots — a 70-year-old man, an old woman and a shopkeeper — were killed, and another 17 people including children, women and elderly people were severely wounded. The wounded were immediately taken to the public health hospital of Samangan Province for treatment.

The toiling people of Aybak city who witnessed this bloody and tragic incident strongly condemned the savage actions of rebels and these real enemies of the sacred religion of Islam and humanity. They curse the perpetrators of the incident and their imperialist masters, led by criminal U.S. imperialism, on whose instructions counterrevolutionary elements engage in terror, murder, the destruction of homes, mosques and public property.

214 Rebels Repent, Surrender to DRA Officials

LD302052 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul, April 29, (BAKHTAR) — A group of two hundred armed men formerly members of the Jamiyat band along with their ringleaders Assadullah and Samandar have joined to the revolutionary state in Faryab Province and were organised in tribal division.

Availing of the amnesty decree of the state another group of 14 armed persons formerly members of the counterrevolutionary bands have surrendered themselves to the state authorities in the said province.

The armed men and their ringleaders have repented their previous acts against the people and Government of the DRA and have promised to defend the glorious April revolution to the last drops of their blood.

U.S. To Push Aid Program for Afghan Mujahidin

PM301243 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Apr 86 p 2

[Unattributed report: "U.S. Aid Program for Afghan Mujahidin With Participation of Arab and International Sides"]

[Text] Cairo — *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* has learned from Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources that a U.S. envoy has recently visited some Arab states to submit to them the program prepared by the U.S. Government for humanitarian aid to the Afghan mujahidin providing for the participation of five other states in the program.

During his tour the U.S. envoy told the officials in these states that the United States looks forward to an Arab role in providing humanitarian aid for the Afghan mujahidin and in finding the best ways to support the Afghan revolution and turn the military victory achieved by the mujahidin into a political victory.

The sources told *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the U.S. program is based on setting up an alliance of all the mujahidin factions to play a major part in administering the aid program, with the Pakistani Government undertaking the task of coordinating aid and ensuring participation by as many international sides as possible in the program.

Keshtmand's USSR Visit Opens 'New Phase' in Ties

LD302132 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 30 Apr 86

["Press Review"]

[Text] Kabul, April 29, BAKHTAR — The official visit of Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers to the Soviet Union, opened a new phase for the development of friendly relations and fraternal ties between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, writes daily *HEYWAD* commenting on the result of S.A. Keshtmand's visit to the USSR.

The daily adds that there are over 100 projects functioning under the technical assistance of the Soviet Union. These projects, the daily points out, play a significant role in the consolidation of the national economy. In the first post-revolution socio-economic development plan 130 important projects have been envisaged.

The results of the talks between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan have provided new ground for the implementation of the first post-revolution five year development plan.

HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR writes in its editorial that the visit of the high-ranking Afghan delegation headed by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand certainly has a determining role in the Afghan-Soviet relations. It can be said with confidence that the ever-further consolidation of the Afghan-Soviet friendly relation play a constructive role in helping the DRA to rebuff the hostile aggressions and the undeclared war which has been waged by the U.S. imperialism and its accomplices against Afghanistan.

The signing of agreements, the daily adds, on economic and trade cooperation enjoys a historical and profound importance. This is especially significant under the conditions when the imperialist and reactionary countries are intensively continuing their undeclared war against the DRA.

The DRA gives a high importance to the question of ensuring security in Asia. To achieve this end, the DRA has set forth positive proposals confirming the Soviet's initiatives on ensuring security in Asia. The state of the DRA believes that the terms agreed between the governments of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union about the stage-by-stage withdrawal of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan, provided a political solution is reached terminating any kind of armed intervention into the internal affairs of the DRA, is of paramount significance.

AFP: President Bans Anti-Election Protests
BK300808 Hong Kong AFP in English 0751 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Dhaka, April 30 (AFP) — Bangladesh's military regime has banned all activity aimed at disrupting next month's general elections and reportedly censored news of a rally held Tuesday to promote a boycott of the polls.

The official BSS news agency said that President Hussain Mohammad Ershad issued the order banning anti-poll actions late Tuesday. Newspapers said Wednesday that 31 people had been arrested for anti-election protests.

Some 10,000 people, according to witnesses, gathered to hear opposition members led by the Bangladesh National Party (BNP) call for resistance to the May 7 parliamentary polls and a general strike three days before. BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, spearhead of the seven-party alliance, told the slogan-shouting demonstrators in Baitul Mukarram Square that the elections should be opposed at any cost. "The polls are being held under a blueprint prepared by the military regime at the instigation of a neighbouring country," Mrs Zia said. She did not name the country. She also made what was seen as a veiled call to the army to step into stop the polls, urging the military "not to remain silent when the national interest is at stake."

Crowds later marched through the city streets and reportedly had minor skirmishes with pro-election government supporters. Newspapers here Wednesday failed to carry any reports about the rally, and journalistic sources said that a blackout on all anti-poll activities had been ordered.

National elections in Bangladesh have been postponed three times during the four years of Lieutenant General Ershad's martial law rule because of boycott threats.

While some groups still see the polls as a meaningless exercise under the current military regime, some major opposition parties have agreed to participate in the May 7 elections. The Bangladesh Awami League, the country's largest political party, and at least seven of its allies in the opposition 15-party alliance are taking part in the elections to choose a new 300-seat parliament.

Lt Gen Ershad has promised that his government would be neutral in the voting, and pledged that he would lift martial law and restore the country's suspended constitution soon after the polls.

Opposition Leader Arrested
BK010526 Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 1 (AFP) — The Bangladesh military regime has arrested anti-election activists, including opposition leader Khaleda Zia in a nationwide swoop, political sources said here Thursday.

A senior aide of Mrs. Zia confirmed to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Thursday that the leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the opposition seven-party alliance had been arrested late Wednesday.

At least five other leading party figures were detained with the BNP leader, party sources said.

The BNP and seven-party alliance have been campaigning for a boycott of general elections due to be held next Wednesday, because they say free and fair elections cannot be held under martial law.

Other opposition groups have acreed to take part in the elections.

The military regime of Lieutenant Hussain Mohammad Ershad Wednesday banned all activity aimed at disrupting the polls.

A special assistant to Mrs. Zia, barrister Rafiqul Islam, told AFP Thursday that police intercepted her motorcade at Kaliakair, about 45 kilometers (28 miles) from here late Wednesday.

She was returning to the city after addressing a public meeting at the northern town of Jamalpur, some 150 kilometers (100 miles) from here.

At least five other top leaders of the party accompanying Mrs. Zia were also detained and taken to the nearby Tongi police station, party sources said.

They said they did not know where Mrs. Zia was.

Relatives at her home confirmed that Mrs. Zia had been arrested but said that they had not been informed of her whereabouts.

Awami League Files Petition Against Ershad
BK300314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, the Election Commission has admitted a petition by the Awami League led 8-party opposition alliance which accused President Ershad of violating representation of people's order.

The petition alleged that President Ershad indulged in electioneering in pro-government Jyotia Party and thereby misused his official position to influence the results of the election.

Sunday has been fixed for the hearing.

Continuing Reportage on Situation at Golden Temple

Home Minister Reports to Lok Sabha

BK301442 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The home minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, informed the Lok Sabha a short while ago that curfew has been imposed on the walled city of Amritsar and around the Golden Temple complex from 1700 today.

The Punjab police and the central Reserve Police Force have entered the Guru Ram Das Sarai, Guru Nanak Niwas, and the Akal Rest House [buildings situated in the Golden Temple compound]. Searches are going on, and some persons have been taken into custody. Mr Rao gave this information while intervening in the special discussion on the situation in Punjab. The discussion is in progress.

Further Details

BK301621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The home minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, informed the Lok Sabha this evening that curfew has been imposed in the walled city of Amritsar and around the Golden Temple complex from 1700 today. The Punjab police and the Central Reserve Police Force have entered the Guru Ram Das Sarai, Guru Nanak Niwas, and Akal Rest House [buildings situated in the Golden Temple compound]. Searches are going on and some persons have been taken into custody. Mr Rao gave this information while intervening in the special discussion on the situation in Punjab.

Later replying to the discussion, the home minister said the use of holy places for unholy purposes is a serious matter. Such a thing happened in the past. It has happened again. The operation undertaken today should be an object lesson to those who believe that destabilization is the name of the game. He said all political parties, communities, parliament and the people of India are solidly behind the Punjab government to deal with the situation. Mr Rao underlined the need to keep the atmosphere in the country free from rancor. Mr Rao welcomed the statement of Mr Barnala yesterday who came up unequivocally against the secessionist forces and followed it up with firm action. He said the first thing the prime minister did yesterday on hearing about the development in Amritsar was to contact personally all the chief ministers who were in New Delhi for the National Development Council meeting. Mr Rajiv Gandhi told them to take vigorous measures in their states so that no untoward incident took place.

Members from all sides of the House asked the government to confront and crush the protagonists of so-called Khalistan who are out to destroy the unity and integirity of the country. Taking part in a special discussion on the subject they called for a fight to the finish to totally wipe out terrorists and the secessionist forces in Punjab. The members described the announcement of so-called Khalistan as a grand plan engineered by a foreign power to destabilize India. Initiating the discussion, Mr Indrajit Gupta, Communist Party of India, said what is called for at this moment is police action against these forces. He warned that if the Center and the Punjab government do not act now, the situation will further deteriorate and grow out of their hands.

Earlier in the day, the home minister declared that the announcement of so-called Khalistan by a small group of people styling themselves as the Panthic [Sikh religious] committee is a grave matter and government is determined to deal with it sternly. Mr Narasimha Rao said in both Houses of Parliament today that no part of our territory will be allowed to be used for secessionist activities. He said in a statement that the Punjab government is pursuing firm action and the Center is in constant touch with it. The Center is extending to the state government all the assistance and support that it require. Mr Rao noted that the anti-national act by the group which made the announcement from the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar yesterday has been denounced by Sikh leaders.

Replying to points raised by members in the Rajya Sabha, the home minister said the law and order authority knows how many people are involved in the anti-national act and the arms and ammunition that they have. Mr Rao said the government fully shares the concern voiced by members. Reports being received show that these concerns are being taken care of. There is no question of any complacency. In fact, the government decided to err on the safe side although it meant giving disproportionate importance to a minuscule group. Members expressed their grave concern at the developments and voiced their conviction that some foreign powers are behind it. They called for strong action against secessionists. They said this is not a party matter as it concerns the unity and integrity of India. All secular forces should unite and mobilize the people against the extremists.

In the Lok Sabha, immediately after the home minister's statement the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, held a meeting in his chamber with the minister and opposition leaders.

The Akali Dal parliamentary party has condemned the anti-national and unpatriotic action of separatist forces. In a statement made in New Delhi today, it expressed the party's faith in the preservation of the country's unity and integrity. The former Punjab chief minister and senior Akali Dal-Longowal leader, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, today described the declaration as shocking and against the interests of Sikhs.

Situation 'Normal'

BK010157 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] The Punjab police and the Central Reserve Police completed their task in the Golden Temple this morning. Several people were arrested there. The situation is now normal.

200 Arrested, 1 Killed

BK010323 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] The operation to flush out anti-national and antisocial elements from the Golden Temple complex launched last evening by the state police and the state security forces was completed

early this morning. An official spokesman in Chandigarh said about 70 persons, including Bhai Gurdev Singh who had gone into the Harminder Saheb [Golden Temple complex], were requested time and again through the public address system to surrender. Bhai Gurdev Singh was nominated the acting chief of the Akal Takht [seat of Sikh religion] by Damdami Taksal [Sikh religious educational institute] and the All India Sikh Students Federation-sponsored congregation during January this year.

The spokesman said they ultimately surrendered at about 0500 this morning. He said in all about 100 persons were rounded up from the Golden Temple and the Parikrama [holiest shrine] area, raising the total number of persons apprehended during the operation to about 200. Some arms and ammunition have also been seized during the operation.

The spokesman categorically stated no personnel of the security forces went beyond darshani dhyoudi [door leading to Holiest Shrine]. Screening of the persons rounded up was immediately started and those not connected with any crimes are being released. The spokesman said one person is reported killed and two injured in the entire operation.

Police Chief Comments on Raid

BK010935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] In Punjab, normalcy has been restored after the state police and paramilitary forces completed their task of flushing out extremists and criminals from the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar early this morning. The director general of the Punjab police, Mr J.F. Ribeiro, told newsmen in Amritsar today that the forces are now surveying the surroundings of the temple complex. He said that about 300 persons were rounded up from the complex; they will be screened. The innocent, pilgrims and sevadas [devotees] will be released. The curfew clamped as a precautionary measure in some areas in the vicinity of the complex is continuing.

Giving details of the action, Mr Ribeiro said the police and paramilitary forces first surrounded the buildings on the side of Guru Ram Das Sarai [inn]. The pilgrims were asked to come out and about 120 persons came out. A large number of people went inside Harmandir Saheb [main shrine]. The forces however did not enter Harmandir Saheb and remained in the Parikrama [area surrounding the shrine] only where they went bare-footed and with heads covered. Those inside the Harmandir Saheb surrendered early this morning. They were led by Bhai Gurdev Singh, who was appointed acting chief of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] by the Damdami Taksal [Sikh religious educational institution] and the AISSF [All India Sikh Students Federation]-sponsored congregation on the 26th of January. Mr Ribeiro said the main objective of the operation was to flush out extremists. He disclosed that the action was started simultaneously at two other gurdwaras — Saheb Baba Deep Singh, Amritsar, and Sri Durbar Saheb, Tarn Taran.

During the operations, some arms and ammunition were also recovered. As reported earlier, one person was killed and two were injured in the entire operation. The All India Radio correspondent, Amrik Singh Virke, reports after a visit to the Golden Temple that kirtan [recitation from holy book] is on and a serene atmosphere prevails throughout the holy complex. The sevadas are doing their duties.

Meanwhile, the state government's action has been widely welcomed. Jathedar of Takht of Sri Kesgarh Saheb, Mr Harcharan Singh Mahlon, has said that by clearing the Golden Temple of anti-Panthic [anti-Sikh religious] elements, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala has complied with the directives contained in the resolution adopted at the Sarbat Khalsa [highest Sikh religious congregational assembly] at the Anandpur Saheb on February 16th this year. In a statement issued today, Mr Mahlon said that Mr Barnala has restored the sanctity of the Golden Temple for which the Sikh sangat [community] is grateful to him.

The convenor of the All India Sikh Forum, Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Arora, has welcomed the operation at the Golden Temple complex to flush out the extremists. Congratulating the Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, for the effective and expeditious measure he said it is also important that the Shiv Sena [militant Hindu organization] which has raised its communal head in the state be effectively dealt with.

The Bharatiya Janata Party general secretary, Mr L.K. Advani, has welcomed the action. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, he said that yesterday's developments only show that the extremist bluff could have been (?curbed) long back if only the govenrment had mastered the requisite will. He also called for urgent steps to weed out the elements in the Punjab police, who, he alleged, are colluding with the extremists. The Gujarat chief minister, Mr Amar Singh Chaudhury, has welcomed the police action to remove the anti-national elements. The speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly and the deputy leader of the Pradesh [state] Congress-I have described the Amritsar action as timely and in the interest of national security.

FRG Chancellor Concludes Visit, Departs 30 Apr

BK300955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Helmut Kohl, left New Delhi this morning at the end of his 4-day visit to India. At the airport, he was seen off by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and some of his cabinet colleagues.

While in the capital, Dr Kohl has had discussions wth the prime minister on a wide range of subjects.

Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Arkhipov

Meets With Energy Minister

BK290353 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] The visiting Soviet first deputy prime minister, Mr Arkhipov, called on the energy minister, Mr Vasant Sathe in New Delhi yesterday. Mr Arkhipov said that his country is willing to cooperate with India in the power and coal sectors. Mr Sathe

welcomed bilateral assistance from friendly nations for the development of the power sector.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

BK291325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol on increasing and diversifying cooperation in a wide range of sectors — agriculture, irrigation, trade, science and technology, and electronics and computers. The protocol also covers cooperation in ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, machine building, power, coal, and oil. It was signed at the end of the 10th session of the India-Soviet joint commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation in New Delhi today.

The external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, and the first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Mr Arkhipov, signed the protocol. During the 2-day deliberations of the joint commission, the progress of implementation of various on-going projects was reviewed.

Calls on President

BK300959 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Mr Arkhipov, called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] today. The two leaders were together for about 1/2 an hour.

Leaves for Moscow 30 Apr

BK301400 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The first deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Mr Arkhipov, left New Delhi for Moscow today after his 4-day official visit to India.

Mr Arkhipov, who cochaired the 10th session of the Indo-Soviet joint commission in the capital, was given a warm send-off by the external affairs minister, Mr Bhagat.

Talking to newsmen, both Mr Arkhipov and Mr Bhagat expressed satisfaction with their talks and the outcome of the joint commission meeting.

High-Level Delegation Leaves for Sri Lanka Talks

BK290935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] The 4-member Indian delegation to Sri Lanka for talks on the ethnic issue left for Colombo this morning. The minister of state for personnel and administrative reforms, Mr Chidambaram, is leading the delegation. It includes the former foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari; a constitution expert, Mr Balakrishnan; and the deputy secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Ranjan Mathai.

The delegation will hold talks with President Jayewardene and other government leaders. It is also expected to meet the leader of the Sri Lankan Freedom Party, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

Protest Lodged With DRA Over Artillery Firing

BK301529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The Afghan forces fired 13 artillery rounds at 1430 last Monday [28 April] which landed at (Sargai) and (Babarak) villages in the (Charmung) Valley, 15 miles west of Khar in the Bajaur Agency, killing two persons and injuring one child. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office, and a strong protest was lodged with him over this unprovoked attack.

Peshawar Universities Closed After Death of Student

BK301545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] It has been officially stated in Peshawar today that all universities in Peshawar, colleges affiliated with Peshawar University, Khyber Medical College, and all colleges under the Directorate of College Education and Technical Education in Peshawar and Mardan Districts will remain closed until further notice. However, the examinations being conducted by the universities will continue as scheduled.

The chief minister of the North-West Frontier Province, Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, has expressed grief and shock at the death of a student of the local Islamic college. The student was killed in a road accident on Jamrud road in Peshawar today. The chief minister has offered his condolences to the bereaved family.

Opposition Leader Demands Ziaul Haq's Ouster

GF291345 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 28 Apr 86 p 6

[Text] Rawalpindi, 27 Apr — Me'raj Mohammad Khan, president of the National Liberation Front, has said that President Mohammad Ziaul Haq should resign at once and let the nation decide his fate. He further said that the 1973 Constitution should be revived, elections should be held on a party basis and power transferred to the members elected by the nation.

He was addressing the Rawalpindi bar members today. In his address he said that the CIA was active in Pakistan and efforts are being made to rob us of our independence in the name of American aid. We will not let them do this under any circumstances. He further said that Bhutto was hanged at U.S. instigation because he was bent upon carrying out the atomic program. They do not allow a people's government in this country. For the last 38 years the country has been run by the Army and the civil bureaucracy. The Army has moved away from its military duties and the country's borders have become unsafe.

Afghanistan Group Denies Having U.S. Missiles

GF291343 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 28 Apr 86 p 1

[Text] Peshawar 28 Apr — Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, chairman of the Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, addressed a press conference here today. He said: No missiles -- Stringer or any other kind -- have been received by the mujahidin from the United States or from any other country. In any case, Stringer missiles are useless against aircraft and helicopters which the Soviet Union uses in Afghanistan.

Responding to a question on the supply of Stringer missiles by the United States, engineer Hikmatyar said: This propaganda about the United States or any other country supplying the Afghan mujahidin with arms is being carried out by the people linked to the Soviet lobby; they do this to justify the presence of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan. The Soviet Union, he said, claims that there is U.S. interference in Afghanistan and therefore, this war is not against the Afghan mujahidin but against the United States. Gulbuddin continued: The Afghan mujahidin do not receive arms from anybody. They use the arms which they capture from the Soviet forces.

Responding to a question on the Geneva talks he said: We do wish to become victims of wishful thinking. Our stance is that we will never hold talks with the Soviet Union as long as there is even one Soviet soldier in Afghanistan. First, let the entire Soviet force leave Afghanistan and after that if there is any point in dispute, we could hold talks with the Soviet Union. In response to another question on whether there was any plan to ask the Afghan mujahidin to join the talks, he said: Our stance is clear; we will not join any talks until there are no Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan. We do not give anyone the right to select Afghan representives for the talks. The mujahidin reserve the right to select their own representatives.

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Joint Talks With India on Tamil Issue

Indian Delegate on Proposal

BK300441 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The leader of the Indian delegation to Sri Lanka, the minister of state for personnel, Mr P. Chidambaram, has said that the recent Sri Lankan proposal on the ethnic issue is an adequate basis for resumption of dialogue. Speaking to newsmen after arrival in Colombo yesterday he said the latest proposal which the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, carried in New Delhi recently provided broad parameters for negotiations.

Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that they will call on the Sri Lankan president this morning and will have discussions with him. They will also meet the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, and the foreign minister, Mr Hameed, and other leaders.

Rival Tamil Groups Clash

BK301449 Hong Kong AFP in English 1431 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Colombo, April 30 (AFP) — At least 44 people have died in two days of gunfights between two rival Tamil separatist groups, and a showdown appears to be looming, residents in northern Sri Lanka and security sources said. The clashes between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) erupted Tuesday in Jaffna, the northern capital, after a local LTTE leader was abducted by a TELO group, local residents said. The running battles continued Wednesday in new areas in the north, including Kilinochchi, and at least 27 people died Tuesday and 17 Wednesday, the residents said. They could not say which group suffered greater casualties. Small arms, grenades and an assortment of homemade weaponry were used.

The clashes occurred as a four-member Indian team was meeting with Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene and other officials in Colombo in a bid to mediate in the Tamil separatist issue. Some 1,500 people have died in related violence in the past 15 months. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Wednesday that more than 25 people had died in Tuesday's fighting. He said that some civilians could be among them.

Residents said that LTTE "hit squads" fanned out Tuesday on the peninsula in search of TELO leader Sri Sabaratnam, who is believed to have come across earlier from southern India to his village Tellipallai in Jaffna District. Well-informed sources said that LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran had radioed a message from his base in southern India, ordering his men to execute the TELO leader. Residents said that they were not certain why the TELO had abducted the LTTE member, sparking the clashes.

The national security minister said that the kidnapping appeared to part of a tussle for power in the movement of minority Tamils seeking a separate state in the north and east of this Sinhala-dominated country.

Earlier this week, the TELO ordered a demonstration to protest against the killing of seven of its members by the security forces. The LTTE demonstrated in Jaffna on Tuesday to protest against the killing of six of its members, including one of its district leaders, by the navy in the northern waters off the Jaffna peninsula, Mr. Athulathmudali said. He said that the protest demonstrations could have triggered the factional war.

Residents said that civilians in the north were living in fear as they expected a major clash to erupt soon. "The people are afraid that they might be caught in the middle if the rival groups start fighting it out," said one resident. Earlier this year, the LTTE clashed with another militant group, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF). Eight militants from both groups were killed in three separate incidents. Last month, TELO and one of its splinter groups shot it out at the Jaffna hospital, killing a magistrate and a hospital nurse among others. Meanwhile, two policemen and a soldier were killed in northeastern Trincomalee District on Tuesday when militants blew up their vehicle with a landmine, security sources said.

President Meets With Indian Delegation

BK301630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The Indian delegation visiting Sri Lanka today had a detailed exchange of views with the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, on the entire range of pending issues on the ethnic problem in the island. The leader of the delegation and the minister of state for personnel [and administrative reforms], Mr P. Chidambaram, was assisted at the talks by the former foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari; and the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit. They were with the president for over 3 and 1/2 hours. They later met the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali; the foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed; and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader, Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranaike.

Mr Chidambaram and Mr Bhandari also met a large number of leaders of various political parties and some important members of the Sri Lankan Cabiet at a dinner hosted by Mr Dixit.

KUNA: Iran-Iraq Agree To Negotiate on Ending War

LD011236 Kuwait KUNA in English 1223 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] Kuwait, May 1 (KUNA) — Iraq and Iran agreed to negotiate a settlement to end the six-year Gulf war, Radio Rabat announced. The broadcast monitored by KUNA, said differences on a ceasefire procedure still exist, but United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is quoted by the radio as saying the negotiations will center on eight points. The U.N. secretary general said, according to the broadcast, the nature of the eight points are not yet divulged.

Further Details

LD011337 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1325 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] Iraq and Iran have provisionally accepted the agenda for direct negotiations between them to end the war. However, they have failed to agree on the cease-fire arrangements. Announcing this, the UN secretary general affirmed that the agenda of the Iraq-Iran talks will center on eight points, but he did not reveal what they were. He said that he will try to persuade Iran to encourage the UN efforts to bring peace to the Gulf. Tehran has been opposing the UN Security Council's resolution to end the war with Iraq.

'No Increase' in Radioactivity Levels Reported

LD011250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, despite sensational reporting by foreign news media about an incident which occurred in one of the reactors at the Chernobyl nuclear power station near Kiev in the Ukraine in the Soviet Union, the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, the unit for protection against radioactivity, announced: Fortunately, after investigations and based on the measurement results, it is clear that there has been no increase in the level of radioactivity in the atmosphere. Such investigations and measurements are currently continuing by this organization's experts in various parts of the country. In general, on the basis of the practical and theoretical experiments carried out so far, there is no cause for anxiety whatsoever among our people.

Majlis Speaker Reaffirms Importance of Persian Gulf

LD010642 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here Wednesday that the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz were vital not only for Iran but for the whole world. Rafsanjani, addressing a group of officials of naval and ground units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, stressed: "If Iran is actively present in the Persian Gulf it can protect the region and thwart all plots." The Majlis speaker, who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, added that the superpowers might easily confront equipments they had produced but were unable to face the will of the nations.

Elsewhere in his speech Rafsanjani stressed that no one could dictate to the Islamic Republic of Iran to fight, make peace or accept or reject certain conditions due to the self-sufficiency in combat forces and equipment Iran had acquired during the Iraqi-imposed war. Reiterating the importance of the Persian Gulf, the Majlis speaker said that vital Iranian ports in this region should be fully protected. The group, together their families, met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Wednesday noon.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message to May Day Gathering

LD011113 Tehran IRNA in English 1107 GMT 01 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — Thousands of Iranian workers in military uniforms and comprising 15 divisions paraded in the streets of the capital and later gathered at Martyr Shiroudi Stadium to celebrate the International Labour Day, May 1. In an inaugural message from Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani which was read to the gathering, it was stressed that the Islamic revolution of Iran gave a new credit to labour and workers. The message said that workers were the backbone of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their presence in all cultural, political, social and military fields was a guarantee for its strengthening. and determining role in confronting international arrogance and in preserving the achievements of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Similar meetings were reported from other Iranian cities where workers paraded and issued communiques in support of the war effort and condemnation of superpower designs against the Islamic Republic.

Musavi Calls for USSR Withdrawal From Afghanistan

LD011203 Tehran IRNA in English 1112 GMT 1 May 86

[Excerpt] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Thursday referred to reports on the recent Soviet agreement for a time-tabled withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan and said, "the authenticity of this report will make us happy." The prime minister who was speaking at the Thursday's session of the Political Council of the government, said no accurate information about the report was yet available. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran, either in private talks or at international organizations, had already declared its views on a solution to the Afghan issue. The prime minister stressed that the Afghan people desired the establishment of a system based on the will of the Muslim people of that country which would be in the interest of the Soviet Union and regional states. The new system in Afghanistan could cease U.S. pretext for interferring and committing aggression in the region, Musavi said.

On possible British cooperation with the U.S. for taking measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the prime minister noted that Britain had been involved, directly or indirectly, in all crimes committed in Iran during the past few centuries. He stressed that the Islamic Revolution of Iran is not a regional power but rather an international power which could give an appropriate response both to the British and the Americans all over the world.

Commentary on Further U.S. Attacks

GF301824 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Apr 86

[From the "Political Followup" program]

[Text] Kobert (Koferman), an expert on anti-U.S. acts, has declared that if the Americans attacked Iran, they would encounter thousands of suicide attacks by people who believe in a better life in paradise. Such attacks cannot be imagined. REUTERS has quoted statements by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in which he denied the possibility of executing such a attack on the Islamic Republic. The denial by the U.S. secretary of state follows reckless threats by the U.S. President against the Islamic Republic. Some implicit threats against the Iran of Islam were made before by U.S. officials in their capacity as experts. They believe that imposing a blockade on Iranian ports and adopting collective measures by the United States and its allies — such as boycotting Iran in shipping and air transport — are considered less dangerous than a military offensive by U.S. forces against the Islamic territories.

The Islamic Republic has declared through statements by the Majlis speaker and the representative of the leader Imam Khomeyni in the Supreme Defense Council that the United States will certainly learn the meaning of terror if the threats of directing a military blow against Iran are executed. The threats by the U.S. President himself means that the United States has clearly been disappointed. The U.S. Administration lost its senses and began making threats through the U.S. President, thus surpassing all international traditions and norms, which deplore such threats from the leader of the world's greatest power. The following should be noted:

First, we must note that if the United States is capable of toppling the Islamic Republic, it would not hesitate to do so. The United States failed in this field and its plots failed too. Therefore, it began using propaganda in this shameful manner. This is not appropriate with the international pride and reputation of the United States.

Second, such threats embody the U.S. bitterness after the failure of the Ba'thist aggression against the Islamic Republic and after the United States became certain that its Zionist ally in Iraq is today on the brink of falling.

Third, had the air and sea blockade of Iran been useful in accomplishing the U.S. dreams, the United States would not have hesitated to use it as pressure against the Islamic Republic a long time ago.

Fourth, the United States received insulting blows from the Islamic revolution over the blessed years of the revolution. If the United Sattes has not learned enough lessons and is still living in its arrogance — which may make it commit another foolish act against the Islamic Republic of Iran — then the United States will pay doubly for the insanity of Reagan in a manner that will end U.S. prestige. Perhaps the U.S. peacock looked at his image in the mirror and was satisfied with its wings of financial capabilities of which the White House is proud in the air, at sea, and on land. But the U.S. peacock forgot that the Iranian people and supporters of the Islamic revolution all over the world will teach the world that financial capabilities, no matter how great, are of little value to an individual who does not care about death, but seeks it in the defense of his Islamic belief, present and future.

If the United States imagines that its armed forces are capable of making some regimes and governments kneel, it is incapable of encroaching on the pride of a nation that believed in God, the prophet Muhammad, Islam, and martyrdom as the means for salvation and liberation.

PDRY Prime Minister Voices Support; Condemns Iraq

LD010359 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] PDRY Prime Minister Haydar Abu Bakr 'al-'Attas met today with the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Aden in connection with the imposed Iraqi war against Iran. He said: We condemned from the start the country that began the war, and this is our fixed and principled stance. We will stand by the Islamic Republic of Iran until the end.

In connection with the U.S. aggression against Libya, he remarked: This aggression is not solely directed agianst Libya but against all progressive forces. The PDRY prime minister described the objectives of the United States in carrying out this plot as creating divisions between progressive forces.

Noting that the PDRY, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the rest of the progressive countries are enemies of imperialism and its leader-country, the United States, he stressed: We stand beside the people of Iran in our support for the resitance of the Libyan people.

Abu Bakr al-'Attas, while referring to the depth of historical relationships between the PDRY and Iran, stated: On behalf of the people of the PDRY, I thank the Muslim people of Iran for their donations. It is noteworthy that our country has donated medical and food aids to the Muslim people of South Yemen.

Iraq Expels Egyptians for Refusing To Help War Effort

LD010913 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] The regime ruling over Iraq is facing acute an economic crisis and a manpower shortage, and has therefore increased pressure on its guest workers — subjects of other Arab countries living in Iraq — to take part in the war against the forces of Islam.

A reliable source of the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries contacted the Central News Unit in Urumiyeh and stated that in order to implement this policy, Saddam's bankrupt regime has ordered all Egyptian Muslims living in Iraq to be deported because they refuse to participate in the war.

On the basis of this order, carried out by Saddam's security system, the Egyptian Muslims are not allowed to take out more than 40 Iraqi dinars.

Kharrazi Discusses Release of Iraqi POW's

LD010008 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Supervisor of the War Information Headquarters Kharrazi this afternoon gave an all-media interview with the participation of local and foreign reporters on the publicity plots of global arrogance aimed at distorting the image of the Islamic Revolution.

Kharrazi said: Every year on the eve of the blessed month of Ramadan [11 May-8 June this year] and as Al-Quds day [6 June this year] approaches, global arrogance begins to disseminate all sorts of plots aimed at misleading the opinions of the Muslim people of the region and the world. This year, however, the plots started coming earlier, and we are certain that they will increase in the future. Referring to the shared sympathies of the United States and the region's reactionaries, Kharrazi stated: All these efforts are aimed at diluting two distinct aspects of the Islamic Republic, namely, its anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist aspects. It is with this motivation that the rumor has been spread about the purchase by the Islamic Republic of Iran of $2.5 billion worth of weapons from the United States, about the alleged Israeli role in this.

There is also the VOA report on the mistreating the Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran; it cites a former Iraqi POW. This concocted VOA report has no real documentation. Meanwhile, thousands of reliable documents exist showing that wounded Iranian POW's have been killed and that other Iranian POW's have received very poor and inhumane treatment. These documents which we have acquired from the battlefronts are ignored.

In conclusion, the supervisor of the War Information Headquarters said the following in connection with the inspection of Iran in POW camps by Red Cross delegations: If the Red Cross were to correct its earlier biased reports, there would be no obstacles to the inspection of the camps by Red Cross representatives.

In connection with the release of POW's, Kharrazi stated: We have released disabled POW's, even unilaterally, and at one point we declared that we are prepared for an extensive exchange of this category of POW's, but Iraq has not responded.

Iraqi Muslims Blow Up Ammunition Dump

LD291913 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] Following an attack launched by Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries, a large ammunition dump of the Saddamist army in the Sa'd Garrison in the city of Ba'qubah was blown up and burned for 3 days.

According to a Central News Unit report, the Arabic-language weekly *AL-JIHAD*, giving the above report, added the following about the position of the garrison: The Sa'd Garrison was the headquarters of the 6th Mechanized Brigade of the Saddamist army but after the deployment of the brigade's troops on the Mandali and Khanaqin front it became as a supply center and ammunition dump.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Eastern Iraq Bombed 28 Apr

LD281057 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 28, IRNA — The Iranian fighter-bombers in an operation early this morning attacked concentration centers of the Iraqi armoured forces in north west of Zobeydah, eastern Iraq, with coordinates 32.27 degrees north and 47.10 degrees east, a Joint Staff communique said here. According to the communique the Iranian pilots after inflicting heavy losses and damages on Iraqi forces returned safely to their bases.

Meanwhile the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters in a statement Monday said that the Islamic forces of Iran crushed any attempted counterattack of the Iraqi forces in Majnun Islands Sunday night and Monday morning, killing hundreds of Iraqi forces and destroying or setting ablaze large amount of enemy munition.

The Iraqi regime has assigned large number of its forces including the 31st Army and brigades from its marine and ground forces. However, the Islamic forces of Iran halted any move of the Iraqi forces and, assisted by a heavy storm, totally smashed the Iraqi forces. The area is littered by the corpses of the personnel of the wiped out 31 divisions and the smoke of the burning Iraqi munition has filled the area. The statement added that the Islamic forces of Iran destroyed two Iraqi frigates and all its munition as well as several enemy bunkers.

IRNA Reporters Visit Al-Faw Area

LD301148 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Al-Faw, April 30, IRNA — The large plain on Al-Faw-Basra axis and northern side of the Val-Fajr-8 operational theater on Salt Lake axis witnessed an epic created by Islamic combatants of Iran whose braveries are beyond expectation of military experts.

A group of IRNA reporters on Wednesday visited the operational theater of the Monday night attack which was launched in continuation of the victorious Val-Fajr-8 offensive. Upon their arrival to the area, they witnessed the downing of an Iraqi helicopter shot down before attacking Islamic forces of Iran. The reporters later inspected strategic strongholds seized by the Iranian forces. Lightning attack on the Iraqi troops did not allow the fleeing forces to even take their rifles with them.

A commander of the Islamic Forces of Iran told IRNA reporters that the Monday attack has no precedent in classic wars in the world. He stressed that the attack was carried out in an area which is limited to the salt lake on one side and to a vast plain on the other.

The Islamic combatants of Iran inflicted heavy casualties and damage on the Iraqi forces, including the smashing of the 702

commando brigade. The forces of Islam have established their positions in the liberation areas and are fully checking any movement by the Iraqi enemy.

Communique No 2,456

LD301750 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane was downed by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the northern part of the Persian Gulf at 01:07 hours local time Wednesday (21:37 GMT Tuesday), according to a military communique here Wednesday.

Communique number 2456 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that three commercial ships were stopped and searched Tuesday by the patrol units of the Islamic Republic's Navy in the Strait of Hormuz. It added that the ships were released after it was found they were carrying no Iraqi bound goods.

Iraqi war planes bombed the village of Rahimabad near the city of Bakhtaran at 18:40 hours local time (15:10 GMT) Tuesday, the communique said. One child was martyred and 40 others wounded as a result of the inhuman attack, it added. The communique said that exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued in western operational regions being somewhat more intense in Kani-Sheikh and Mehran regions.

In southern fronts, the communique said, exchange of heavy weapons fire was traded which was more intense in the regions of Zobeydah, Sharhani, Southern Majnun Island, Talayeh as well as Hoseyniyeh. Meanwhile, the city of Abadan Khuzestan Province, was subjected to the enemy's long-range artillery fire, as a result of which some houses and buildings were damaged.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ on Iraqi Losses

LD301820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Apr 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, reports that a relentless battle is being continued by Islam's combatants, who are being blessed with the help of God Almighty. While guarding and consolidating the positions that they have conquered in the past 2 days in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational theater, our forces succeeded in utterly destroying large numbers of enemy forces, including the 2d Battalion of the 20th Mechanized Brigade and several battalions of the 2d Division of the Iraqi Army.

During today's operations by Islam's combatants hundreds of troops of the aggressor enemy were killed, and the Saddamist forces suffered heavy losses and were forced to flee from the operational area on the strategic Al-Faw-Basra motorway. Two of their command headquarters on the Al-Faw-Basra axis were completely encircled by Islam's forces today. Islam's troops destroyed the forces stationed in those headquarters, captured a number of them and completely occupied the said headquarters.

Iraqi Armored Forces Hit

LD010657 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers hit positions and concentration centers of the Iraqi armoured forces in Faqqeh operational theater, southern front, at 06:55 local time (03:25 GMT) Thursday morning. A joint staff communique released here said that in this attack heavy casualties and damage were inflicted on the Iraqi enemy. All the Iranian fighter bombers returned to their bases safely after successfully carrying out their mission, the communique added.

Further Details

LD010854 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 1 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — Iranian fighter-bombers for the second time Thursday bombed Iraqi positions and fortificiations in Faqqeh operational theater in southern front, a Joint Staff communique said here. The second attack was carried out at 10:10 hours local time Thursday morning following the first one at 06:55 hours local time, the communique added. In these attacks, the Iranian fighter bombers inflicted heavy casualties and damage on the Iraqi forces and all returned to their bases safely, the communique said.